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His list of utensils, is made on the basis of two persons, and he makes the mistake made by all outfitters in allowing but two spoons and two forks, etc., to the two persons. If in a well-watered country, this might answer, as one can wash his spoon to change from coffee to soup or to jam, but in the desert it would necessitate a large amount of licking. Besides, there are no serving spoons, forks, etc. It is better to throw away the washstand and add in its place some extra knives, forks, spoons and cups and the dishwashing can then be done after the meal. For two persons at least six teaspoons and as many of a larger size should be provided. The author also enumerates two enamelled egg-cups, which, in an explorer's outfit, seem very odd. Eggs are not easy for an explorer to carry, and they soon arrive, even if not broken, at a state where the less said the better. So why egg-cups? There is no word about the German Erbswurst, one of the very best camp preparations ever concocted, nor are leggings advised. Whiskey, wine and mineral waters are included, but generally these things are of no value whatever. On the whole it is a useful book and any prospective pioneer or explorer will learn something from it.

**The Beginnings of New York.** Old Kingston—The First State Capitol.

By Mary Isabella Forsyth. Small 8vo, paper, 69 pp. Richard G. Badger, Boston, 1909.

These are two pleasantly written sketches of New York history, the second being reprinted from the *New England Magazine*. The "Beginnings of New York" goes back, of course, to the entrance of Hudson and the start of the first settlement the year after Hudson's visit, that is in the year 1610, just 300 years ago. Two years later forts were established at Albany and at Kingston Point. Kingston, as is well known, became an important place, and remained so. Houses built in the very early period are still standing there and the city will one day be visited more than now for a view of the relics. One of the old landmarks has been made into a museum and so will be preserved, but there are one or two others whose fate is not so certain. In this country we have not yet reached the stage where historical buildings are thought much of, and little books like this do good missionary work.

**The March of Portolá** and the Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco.

By Zoeth S. Eldredge.—**The Log of the San Carlos** and Original Documents Translated and Annotated by E. J. Molera. Illustrations by Walter Francis. 8vo. 71 pp. DeWitt & Snelling, Oakland, Cal. 50 cents.

Probably very few persons East or West knew who Portolá (or Portalá, as it is sometimes written) was until the Portolá Festival in California last year. This volume was the outcome of that festival of October, 1909, commemorating the 140th anniversary of the discovery of San Francisco Bay, by Portolá.

California was a vague country in the 18th century, comprising the peninsula and an unknown, unlimited, tract northward to anywhere, and this volume in its first section tells the story of the march of Don Gaspar de Portolá from the lower, or Baja California to the portion long known as Alta, and the establishment of the first settlement on the coast at San Diego. It was the first land expedition by white men to the region and the actual history of our California begins with this event.

The author tells the story very well and has been careful with his facts.

Portolá was accompanied by Miguel José Serra, better known as Fray Junipero Serra, who went to establish the Church in the new land, and who immediately founded a mission at San Diego, and then many others in the upper country. Mr. Eldredge discredits the popular conception that it was the Church which blazed the way, and lays it rather to political exigencies. While this in a measure may have been the spring behind the occupation, so far as the coast was concerned, it does not appear to hold for the interior, for there the often unaided zeal of the padres broke the path, as, for example, the exploit of Garces, and that of Escalanté.

Portolá is spoken of as the first governor of California, but though perhaps he was nominally governor, it was a title akin to general, for there was no government and nothing to govern, except his own party, during the year that Portolá was there. He reached San Diego June 29th, 1769, and sailed for Mexico from Monterey July 9th, 1770. There is some account of him afterward. He was promoted to Lieut. Colonel and was Governor of Puebla in 1777.

"The Log of the San Carlos," under command of Lieut. Don Juan Manuel de Ayala, from San Blas to San Francisco, is interesting and valuable, as this was the first ship to enter the Port of San Francisco. A summary of a certified copy, now in the archives at Seville, is given, with the report to Bucareli the Viceroy; a description of the bay, and a map by José de Cañizares the pilot. They found the natives friendly, as natives usually are when properly approached. The success of the missions and the practical enslavement of the natives followed the beginnings recorded in this volume, till the *dolce far niente* régime of the padres thrived in a garden of Eden, to be finally shattered by the coming of the American.

**The American Natural History.** A Foundation of Useful Knowledge of Higher Animals of North America. By William T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoölogical Park. Illustrated by 227 drawings and 116 photographs. 8vo, xxv+449 pp. American Publishing Company, Hartford, 1906.

Any work on Natural History bearing the name of Mr. Hornaday is abundantly endorsed at the outset. The present volume is particularly addressed to teachers and parents, and these persons should read the book. There are grown people to-day who will assure you that a hair-snake comes from a horsehair which has lain in water; and Mr. Hornaday declares that "fully ninety-five per cent. of students in grammar and normal schools, academies, and small colleges are so inadequately equipped for the study of natural history, including also the great mass of students from the higher colleges and universities, that they enter active life ignorant even of the most important forms of the wild life of our own country." He offers this book as a filler between the technical zoology of the college and the nature-study of the common-schools.

To make the work attractive he skips the lowest forms and begins at once with mammals. There is an excellent introduction describing "The Ground-Plans of Nature," and this must be read by all who are not naturalists. The book is well illustrated from photographs and drawings which assist greatly in understanding the various subjects. The pictures on page 119 are a good example. The question is often asked, "Do elk shed their antlers?" and the answer is here given in four cuts from photographs. No. 1 shows an elk with